



STATE SENATOR
PATTY BIRKHOLZ
FROM LANSING TO THE LAKE
24th Senate District E-Mail Newsletter

July 1, 2004

Bill regulating sweepstakes passes Senate

Legislation protecting senior citizens from aggressive marketing by sweepstakes firms peddling magazines and other gifts using deceptive sales practices passed the Senate on June 24. Senate Bill 1114 would create the Prize and Sweepstakes Act and establish prohibited acts with regard to sweepstakes and sales presentations that offer money or gifts for attending. The bill also establishes civil penalties between \$100 and \$5,000 per violation and establishes a misdemeanor of up to one year in jail and a \$10,000 fine for each intentional violation. SB 1114 would specifically require sweepstakes solicitors to: provide official rules to each individual solicited; not require payment or any other consideration to be eligible for a prize; not represent that a person is a winner or has already won unless they have; provide a clear and conspicuous statement that no purchase is necessary to enter; and not represent that an entry accompanied by an order is eligible for more prizes. The legislation does not apply to horse racing, lottery, bingo or other charitable solicitations.

Abandoned cars considered as litter

The definition of litter would be expanded to include abandoned vehicles through a bill passed by the Senate on June 23. Senate Bill 1171 would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to define vehicles that are considered abandoned as litter. Under the Michigan Vehicle Code, vehicles are considered abandoned when they remain on public property or private property for a period of 48 hours, after a police agency or other governmental agency designated by the police agency has affixed a written notice to the vehicle. The bill would help law enforcement officials and towing companies to keep Michigan roads, fields and forests clean of abandoned cars. Abandoned cars can cause accidents and tie-up the time of law enforcement officials and towing companies.

24th District American Red Cross Blood Drives

As we approach mid-summer our blood supply isn't keeping pace with demand. Shortages loom every June, July and August, but we don't know how severe the shortages will be. But you can help. Please help save lives this summer by donating blood. Below is a listing of blood drives in my 24th Senate District.

July 3	9:00 a.m.-2:45 p.m.	Sandy Pines, 2745 136 th Ave., Hopkins
July 8	Noon-5:45 p.m.	First Congregational Church, 120 W. Morrell, Otsego
July 15	Noon-5:45 p.m.	Griswold Auditorium, Hubbard Street, Allegan
July 22	Noon-5:45 p.m.	United Methodist Church, 200 Park St., Plainwell
July 23	Noon-5:45p.m.	Open Door Reformed Church, 1683 142 nd Ave., Door

District Appearances

July 3 Hopkins 4th of July Parade at 5:00 p.m.
July 4 Saugatuck 4th of July Parade at 2:00 p.m.
July 5 Dorr 4th of July Parade at 10:00 a.m.

District Office Hours

Hastings City Hall	Monday, July 12	9:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Charlotte City Hall	Thursday, July 15	4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Delta Township Hall	Thursday, July 22	4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Fillmore Township Hall	Monday, July 26	9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
Allegan City Hall	Monday, July 26	2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Office Contacts:

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If you want to be removed from our email list, please contact my office.